

**IN THE CLAIMS:** See Listing of Claims. This listing will replace all prior versions of claims in the application.

**REMARKS**

The Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's comprehensive Office Action with appreciation. Claims 31-47 remain pending in the application. The Office acknowledges the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed with the Request for Continued Examination (RCE) on March 3, 2006. The Office raises a rejection under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph. The Office also indicates that Claims 31-34 are allowable.

Claims 35-47 are rejected for indefiniteness under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph. It is the position of the Office that there is insufficient antecedent basis in Claim 31 for the reaction steps and limitations recited in these claims (i.e., the multiple reaction steps involving the compounds of formulas (IV), (V), (VI), and (VII) first recited in Claim 35) and that, therefore, these claims, which are dependent on Claim 31, are broader in scope than Claim 31.

The Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 35 further limits the process of Claim 31 in that Claim 35 recites specific steps for the synthesis of the compound of formula (II), which compound is then reacted with strontium hydroxide according to the process of Claim 31 to form the compound of formula (I). With the instant Amendment, Claim 35 has been amended to clarify the claimed process. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the indefiniteness rejection is respectfully requested.

\* \* \* \* \*

Accordingly, entry of the present amendment, reconsideration of all grounds of objection and rejection, withdrawal thereof, and passage of this application to issue are all hereby respectfully solicited.

It should be apparent that the undersigned attorney has made an earnest effort to place this application into condition for immediate allowance. If he can be of assistance to the Examiner in the elimination of any possibly-outstanding insignificant impediment to an immediate allowance, the Examiner is respectfully invited to call him at his below-listed number for such purpose.

Allowance is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

THE FIRM OF HUESCHEN AND SAGE

By:   
G. PATRICK SAGE

Dated: December 21, 2006  
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Enclosure: Listing of Claims, Fee for Three (3) Month Extension, and Postal Card Receipt

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**THE COMMISSIONER IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE ANY FURTHER OR ADDITIONAL FEES WHICH MAY BE REQUIRED (DUE TO OMISSION, DEFICIENCY, OR OTHERWISE), OR TO CREDIT ANY OVERPAYMENT, TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 08,3220.**